

## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515—0605

October 22, 2021

Merrick Garland Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530 Miguel Cardona Secretary U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Attorney General Garland and Secretary Cardona,

We write today urging you to investigate the Loudoun County School Board and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) for any impropriety regarding the handling of the alleged rape of the daughter of Scott and Jess Smith.

Reportedly, the Smith's daughter was raped in a bathroom on May 28, 2021 by a male student identifying as "gender fluid", who was later arrested and charged with multiple counts of committing violent sexual acts. At a June 22<sup>nd</sup> LCPS meeting, Scott Smith was arrested while venting his frustration following Superintendent Scott Ziegler's reported assertion, "The predator transgender student or person simply does not exist. We don't have any record of assaults occurring in our restrooms."

Other than public denial, the only action that it seems LCPS Officials took regarding this incident was moving the student charged with being a sexual predator to another school where he was again arrested on October 6<sup>th</sup> for assaulting another female minor.

These criminal allegations are mortifying and the nightmare of every parent and every girl. As law enforcement works through these charges, the Smith family deserves justice and appropriate oversight regarding how LCPS has handled these tragic events. It is a matter of public record that this student has been charged with multiple violent sexual crimes and that Superintendent Scott Ziegler denied the student's existence. It is further a matter of public record that Scott Smith was not only lied to by LCPS, but also had the police called on him and was arrested simply for voicing the anguish of a broken father.

No parent should ever worry for their child's safety when sending them to school, especially from negligence on behalf of school administration. We are also extremely concerned by reports that LCPS may have failed to disclose additional sexual assault incidents occurring as far back as 2018. Over the last several years, LPCS has abandoned its fundamental responsibility to ensure that our children have a safe environment to learn and grow in. Virginia deserves better.

On behalf of families across Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, we urge you to investigate the handling of these incidents and to provide proper recourse for any civil or criminal impropriety committed by Loudoun County School Board or any LCPS Officials.

Sincerely,

**Bob Good** 

Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress Rob Wittman

Member of Congress

Ben Cline

Member of Congress